

To: Kirstin.Brown@state.co.us[Kirstin.Brown@state.co.us]
Cc: Way, Steven[way.steven@epa.gov]; Hestmark, Martin[Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov]; Ostrander, David[Ostrander.David@epa.gov]; Faulk, Libby[Faulk.Libby@epa.gov]
From: Peterson, Cynthia
Sent: Mon 8/17/2015 5:13:20 PM
Subject: Questions regarding Upper Animas

Hi, Kirsten.

As I mentioned in our phone conversation, we are seeing a growing need for general messages on, 1—next steps for addressing Upper Animas mining concerns, and, 2. what we know and don't know about water and the connections among the mines in the area --Gold King, Sunnyside, Red and Bonita, etc.

What we need is a couple paragraphs that speak in general terms about the status and limits of our knowledge, and what we will look to do next, in terms of both assessing/securing the mine(s) and next steps w/ our partners. I want to do this with your input so our messages are consistent with the state's.

In addition, below are the specific questions we are trying to address today about the Sunnyside Mine.

--is EPA aware of water buildup inside the Sunnyside Mine?

--is there any estimate for the volume of water inside Sunnyside?

--does the agency have any concerns about a potential spill from Sunnyside?

--were the actions taken at Sunnyside responsible for water that was coming out of Gold King Mine?

--has the EPA seen recent increase in water discharges from the Black Hawk mine, and is that in any way tied to the events at Sunnyside?

Any information you can share about both the general questions, and the Sunnyside Mine-specific questions would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks!

Cynthia

Cynthia Peterson

Community Involvement Coordinator

Public Affairs and Community Involvement

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII

1595 Wynkoop St. (8OC-PAI)

Denver, CO 80202-1129

303-312-6879 -- direct dial